

BACK IN BLACK



Friendly Neighborhood
SPIDER-MAN



RIKER'S ISLAND.







I HOPE WHEN THEY FINALLY NAIL HIS WEBBED BUTT, THEY DON'T TOSS HIM IN ANY FANCY GOVERNMENT HOLDING PEN. I WANT 'IM RIGHT HERE.

GUY'S NO BETTER THAN ANY OTHER PERP. WHY TREAT HIM DIFFERENT?

HOW ABOUT 'CAUSE HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR NAILING HALF THE GUYS WHO'RE IN HERE?



YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME. MAN, AIN'T YOU A LITTLE OLD FOR HERO-WORSHIPPING?

I'M JUST SAYING I SEEN SPIDER-MAN IN ACTION, AND I'D RATHER HAVE HIM CHASING BAD GUYS THAN HAVING GOOD GUYS CHASE HIM.



WHAT DO YOU THINK? THAT IDIOT SPIDER-MAN: THREAT OR MENACE?

GEE, THAT'S A TOUGHIE...



LEMME THINK!

S-SANDMAN! OH...OH GEEZ...



NOW THAT I GOT'CHER ATTENTION...

...WHERE'VE YOU GOT FLOYD BAKER STASHED?



BET "THAT IDIOT SPIDER-MAN" WOULD LOOK PRETTY GOOD TO YOU AROUND NOW, HUH.



LOOKING GOOD! STAY ON HIM!

SPIDER-MAN! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE! STOP RUNNING IMMEDIATELY!

I'M NOT RUNNING, GUYS! I'M WEB-SLINGING! DON'T THEY TEACH YOU ANYTHING AT THE POLICE ACADEMY, OTHER THAN NOT TO ACT LIKE STEVE GUTTENBERG?

SANDBLASTED PART 1

PETER DAVID WRITER	TODD NAUCK PENCILER	ROBERT CAMPANELLA INKER	JOHN KALISZ COLORIST	VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERER	MOLLY LAZER & AUBREY SITTERSON ASSISTANT EDITORS	STEPHEN WACKER EDITOR	JOE GUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF	DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
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COVER BY WIERINGO & STULL



THWIP

BUT, HEY...
IF YOU WANT ME
TO STOP HEADING
FORWARD...



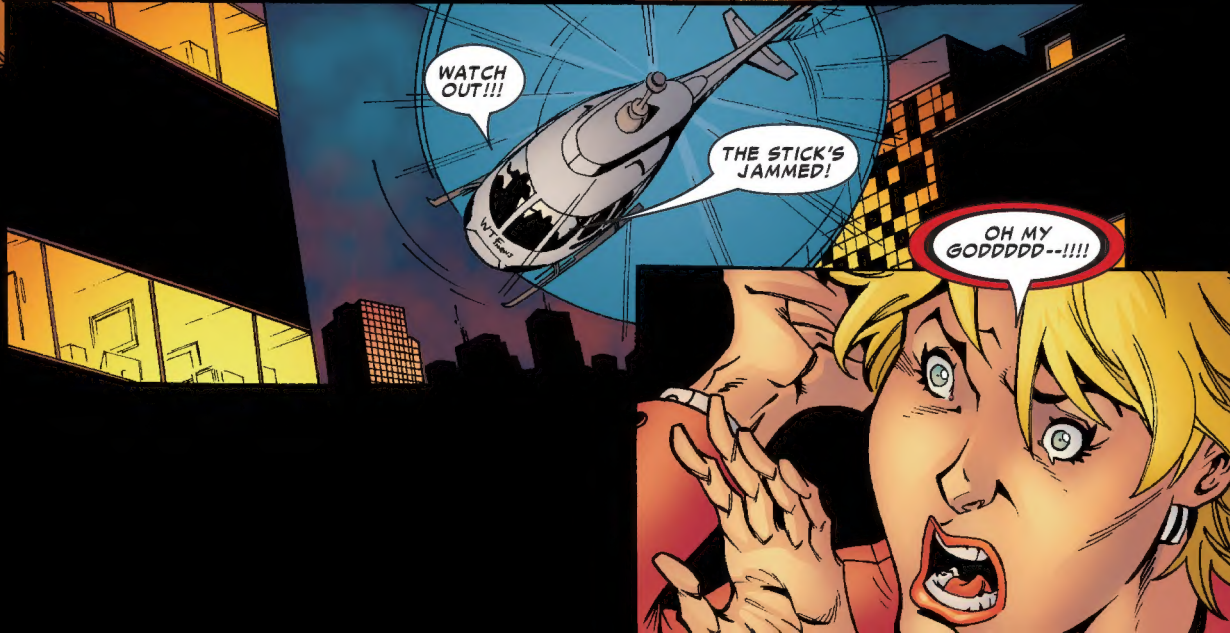
...WHO
AM I TO
QUIBBLE?



DAMMIT!
WE OVERSHOT
HIM!

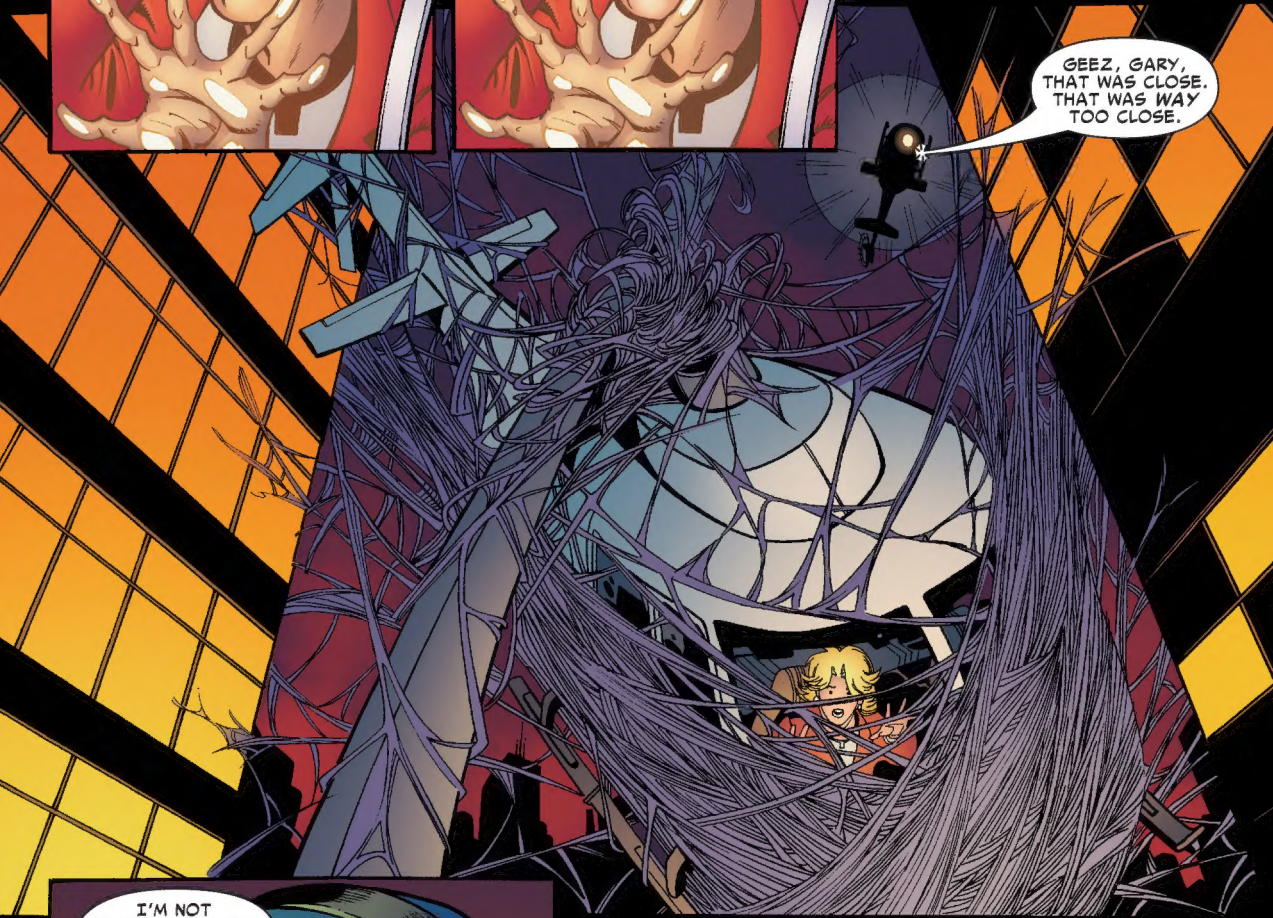
BRING US
AROUND! BRING
US AROUND!

AWRIGHT!
AWRIGHT!





GEEZ, GARY,
THAT WAS CLOSE.
THAT WAS WAY
TOO CLOSE.



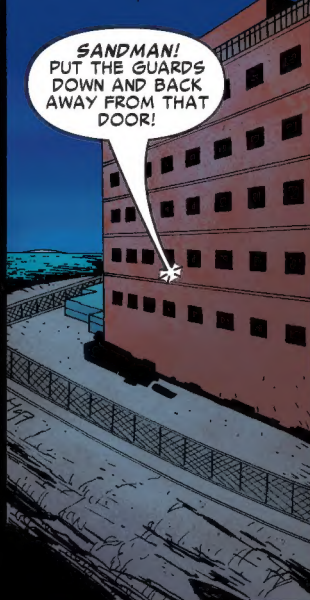
I'M NOT
PICKIN' UP SPIDER-
MAN ANYWHERE, I...
I THINK HE GOT
AWAY.



WOW.
WHAT A CRYIN'
SHAME.

YEAH, I
WASN'T GETTING TOO
CHOKED UP ABOUT
IT EITHER.





SANDMAN!
PUT THE GUARDS
DOWN AND BACK
AWAY FROM THAT
DOOR!

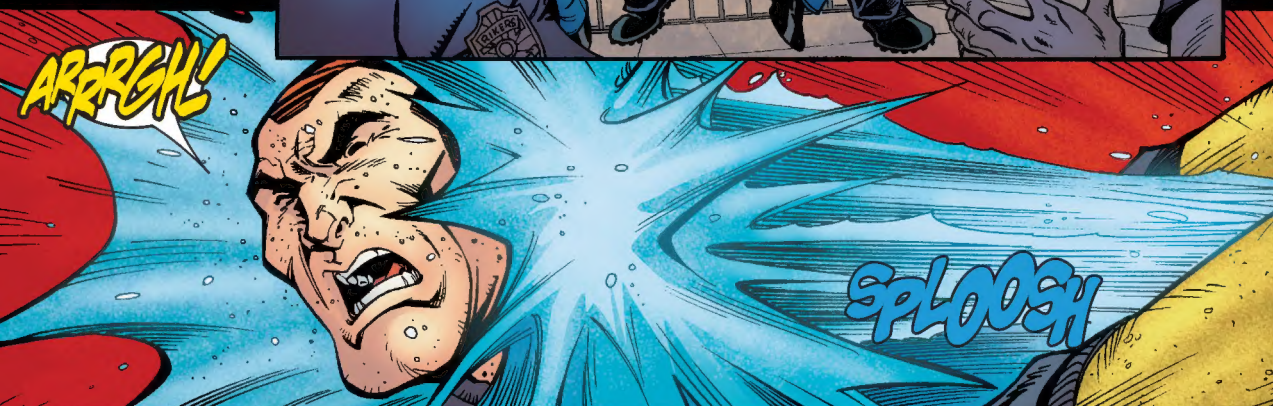


YOU THINK
THAT DOOR'S GONNA
STOP ME? I CAN GO
RIGHT BETWEEN THESE
BARS LIKE THEY'RE
NOTHIN'!

NOT WITH
THOSE MEN,
YOU CAN'T!

THEN
I'LL BUST IT
OPEN!

BUT YOU'RE
NOT KEEPIN' ME
FROM FLOYD
BAKER!



ARRRGH!

SPLASH



YOU THINK WE
WEREN'T PREPPED FOR
YOU, MARKO?!

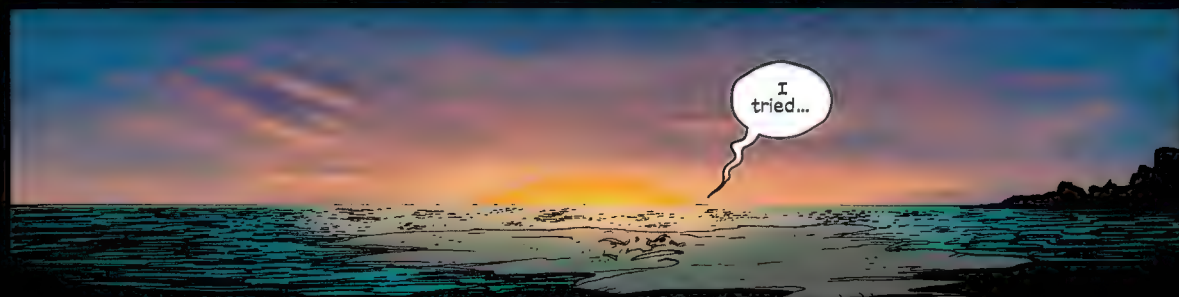
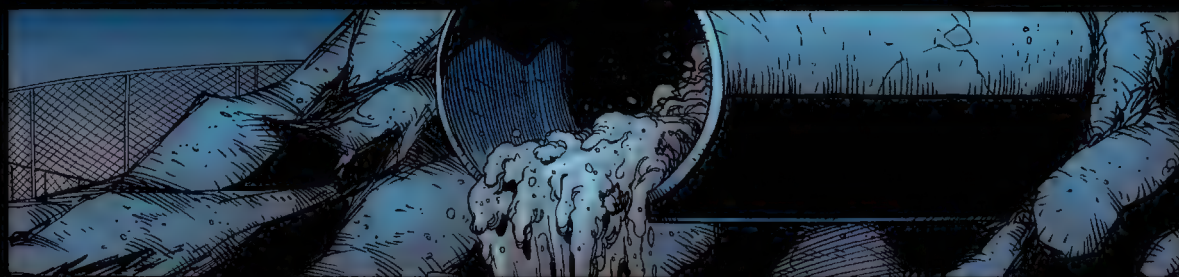
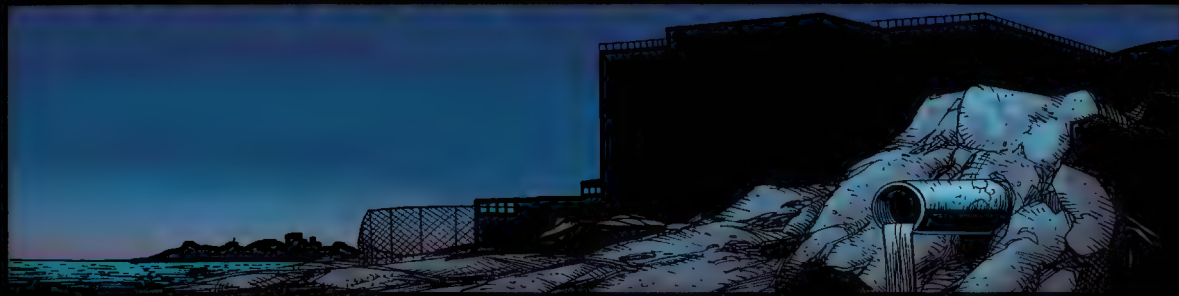
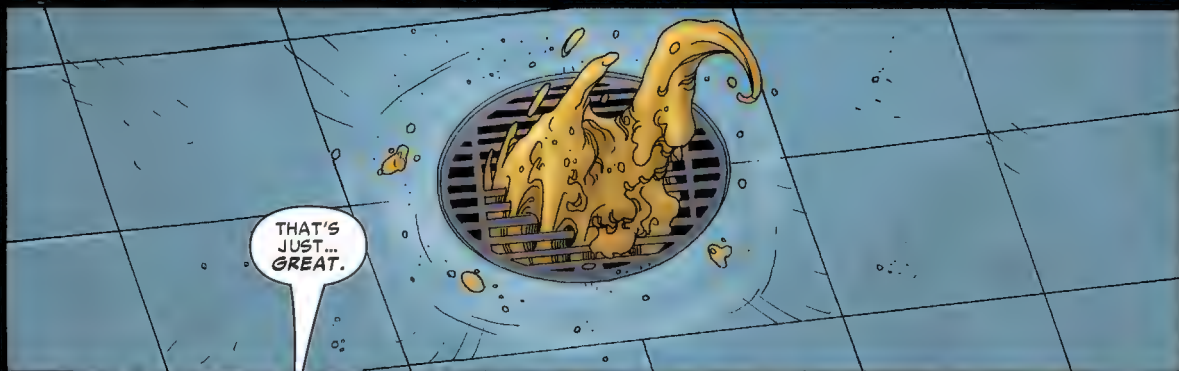
WE'VE GOT
FLOYD BAKER ON
ICE, YOU DON'T
THINK MAYBE WE
FIGURED YOU'D TRY
TO BREAK HIM
OUT!



HE'S
GLUB

HE'S
INNOCENT!







HEY! REILLY!
WHAT THE HELL
YOU THINK YOU'RE
DOIN'?

SNORK!
HUH? WHAT?

WERE YOU
SLEEPIN' IN HERE?
IN MY OFFICE?

WHAT WERE
YOU, HERE ALL
NIGHT?

COACH THOMPSON

NO.
NOT ALL NIGHT. JUST...
RECENTLY...
THAT'S ALL.

HOW'RE
YOU GONNA BE
MY ASSISTANT
COACH IF YOU
CAN'T KEEP YOUR
EYES OPEN?

LOOK,
I'M SORRY. I
JUST, UH...

MY WIFE,
UH...THREW ME OUT.
SO I DON'T HAVE A
PLACE TO CRASH RIGHT
NOW. BUT I'LL FIND
SOMEWHERE...

REALLY?
OH. MAN, THAT
STINKS.

WHY NOT
JUST STAY AT A
CHEAP MOTEL OR
SOMETHING?

THAT,
UH...THAT'S A
PROBLEM...

MONEY
ISSUES?

117

FREEZE!!!



I SAID
FREEZE,
PARKER! YOU
CAN'T GET
AWAY!

NO MATTER
WHERE YOU TRY
AND HOLE UP,
WE'LL FIND
YOU!

**SURRENDER
NOW!**



ICE

God!



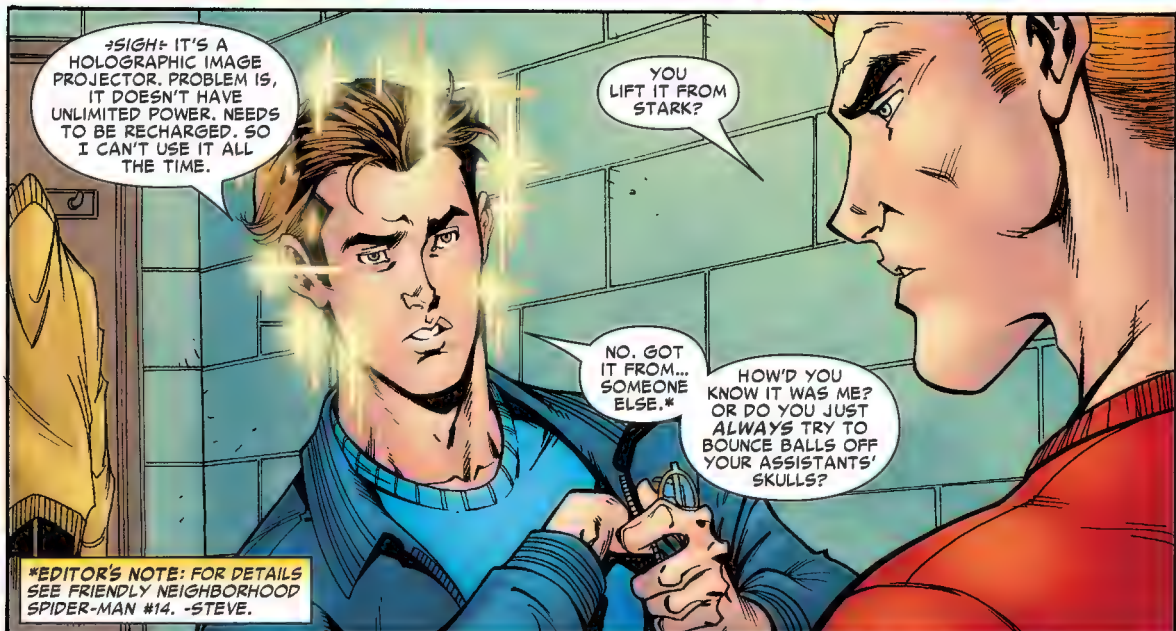
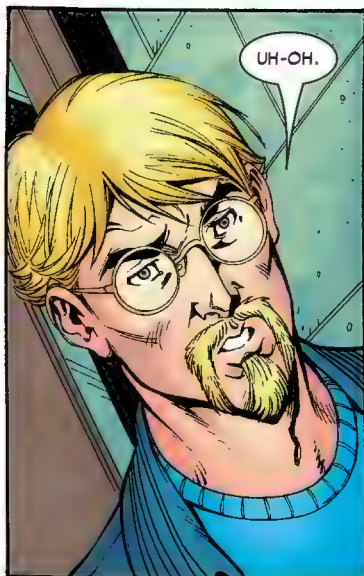
YEAH,
FLASH. MONEY
ISSUES.

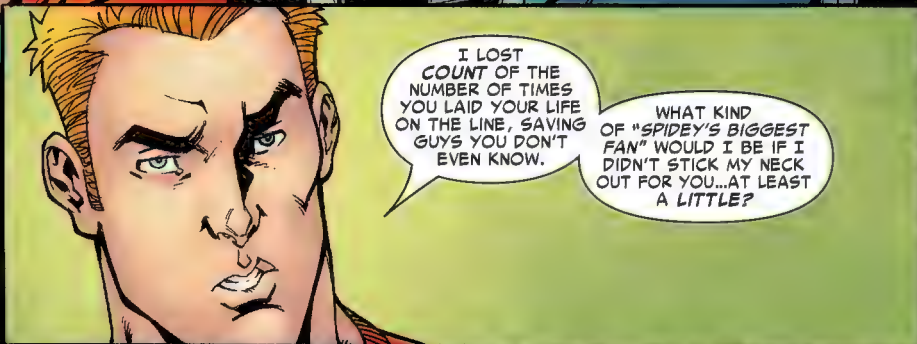
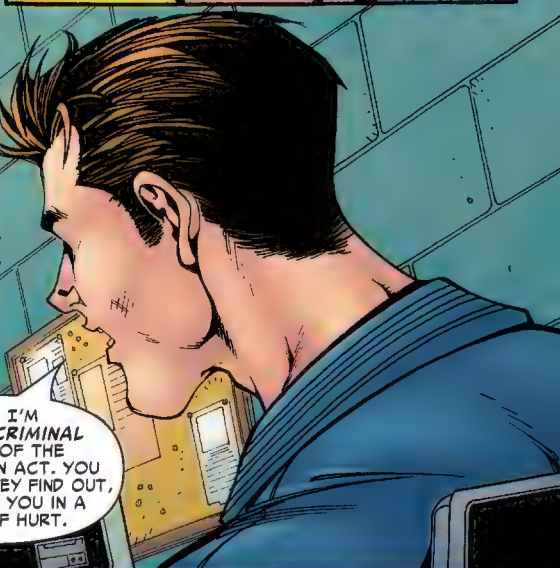
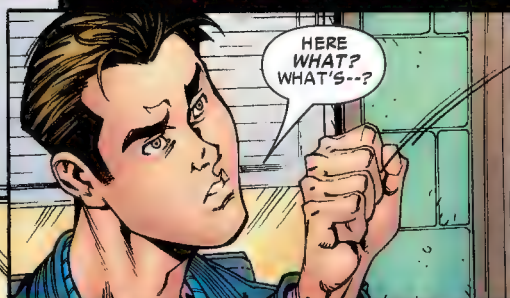


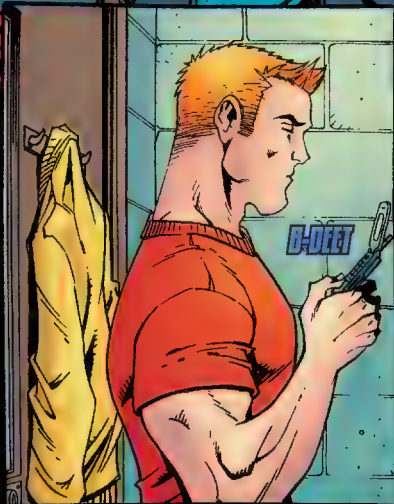


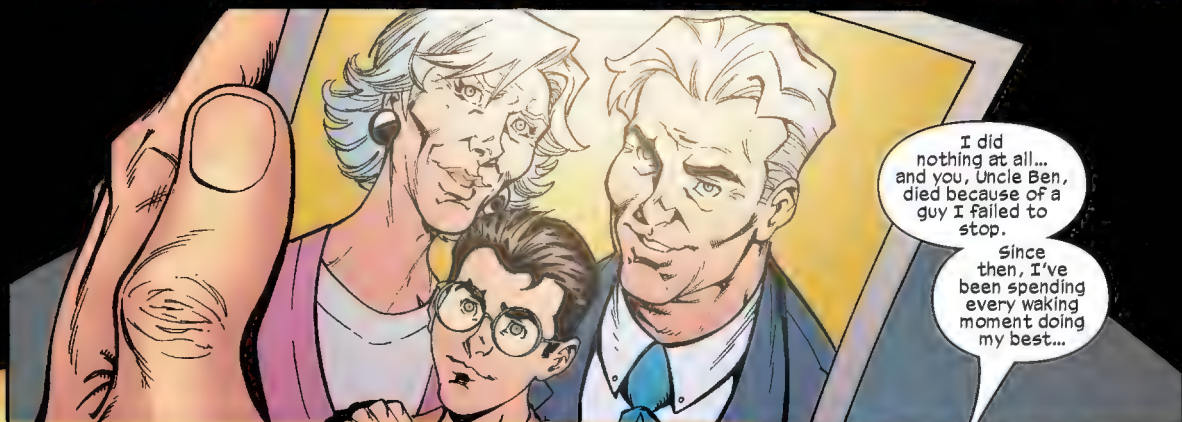
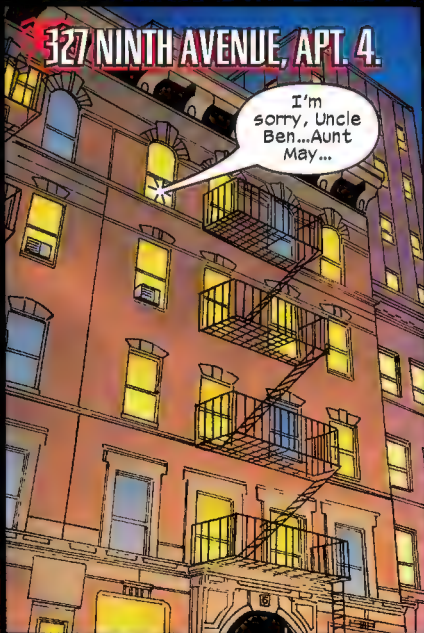
YEAH, I SUPPOSE IT WILL.











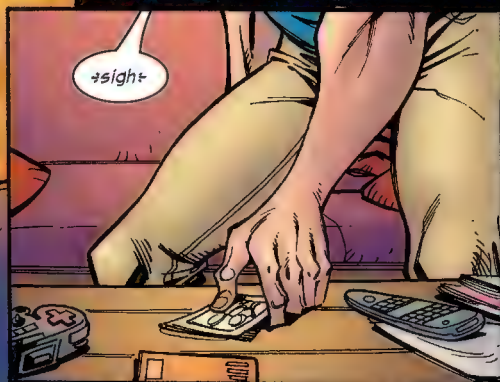
And now with all that's happened...

The police, the army, everybody's after me...

What was the point? What was--?



Dammit.



sight

Pictures in my wallet and the clothes on my back. That's all I have left.

Why did I ever go public with my i.d. ...?

But...maybe it wouldn't have made any difference. Tony, the Avengers, they all knew who I was. Soon as I turned against them, the same thing would've happened.

How long am I going to go on being punished for my original sin?

Maybe Mary Jane was right. I mean, even when things were going fine, she hated it when I said I was worried...

...worried that the ol' **PARKER LUCK** would run true to form and the wheels would just come right off.

She kept talking about "self-fulfilling prophecies."

Who knows? Maybe she was ri--

OH NO. SPIDER-SENSE IS--

--TINGLIN'?



AIN'T THAT
WHAT YOU ALWAYS
SAY? "SPIDER-SENSE
IS TINGLIN'."

YA MIGHT WANT
TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH
SHUT ABOUT THAT.
PRETTY DUMB TO LET
OTHER GUYS KNOW YOU
GOT A BUILT-IN WEAPON
LIKE THAT.



WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
DOING HERE,
SANDMAN?!?

OH, YEAH,
THAT'LL STOP
ME.



COME ON,
WILL YA KNOCK
IT OFF?



YOU'RE ONLY
MAKING THIS
HARDER...



WELL EXCUSE
THE HECK OUT OF
ME IF I DON'T JUST
ROLL OVER FOR
YOU TO--

KRAK



LOOK,
"SPIDER-
MAN"!

I
NEED YOUR
HELP!!!



YOUUUU'RE
KIDDING.

MAN,
I WISH I
WAS.

WERE.
YOU WISH
YOU WERE.

WHATEVER.



A GUY NAMED
FLOYD BAKER IS
IN THE SLAMMER
ON A BUM RAP.

WHAT'S
HE ACCUSED
OF?

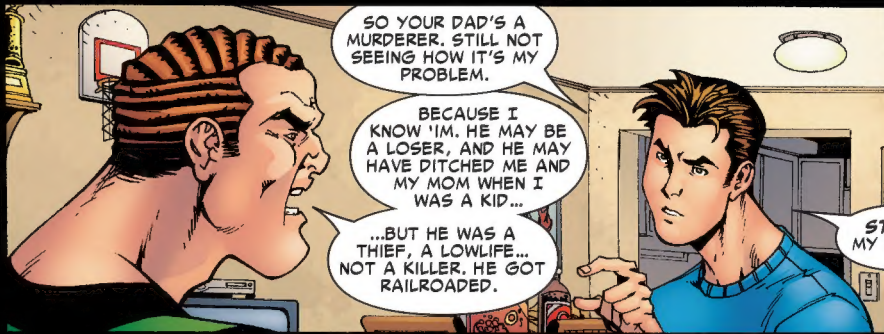
MURDERIN'
A BUM.

OH, WELL...
POINTS FOR
BEING LITERAL,
I GUESS.

'CEPT HE DIDN'T DO IT. I
BROKE INTO THE D.A.'S OFFICE,
READ THE WHOLE FILE...THE
THING'S BOGUS.

OKAY, BUT...
WHY SHOULD I
CARE? MORE TO
THE POINT, WHY
SHOULD YOU?

'CAUSE
HE'S MY
DAD.



SO YOUR DAD'S A MURDERER. STILL NOT SEEING HOW IT'S MY PROBLEM.

BECAUSE I KNOW 'IM. HE MAY BE A LOSER, AND HE MAY HAVE DITCHED ME AND MY MOM WHEN I WAS A KID...

...BUT HE WAS A THIEF, A LOWLIFE... NOT A KILLER. HE GOT RAILROADED.

STILL NOT MY PROBLEM.



AW, C'MON! YOU GO AROUND HELPIN' TOTAL STRANGERS 24/7! AND I'M TELLING YA THAT THERE'S AN INNOCENT GUY GOING DOWN FOR SOMETHING HE DIDN'T DO, AND YOU'RE ALL "NOT MY PROBLEM!"

YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT. AND YOU KNOW WHY? 'CAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, THAT'S WHY!



SEE THESE TWO OLD PEOPLE? NEVER HURT ANYBODY! BUT THAT MAN DIED YEARS AGO AT THE HANDS OF GUYS LIKE YOUR FATHER! SO WHY SHOULD...



HEY! GIVE THAT BA--

THIS IS HIM!

HIM WHO?

THE BUM!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!!

I SAW HIS PICTURE IN THE D.A.'S FILES. AT THE CRIME SCENE. THIS IS THE GUY WHO THEY SAID MY FATHER SHOT.



YOU ARE SO FULL OF--

I SWIPED THE FILES! GOT 'EM STASHED AWAY. I'LL SHOW 'EM TO YA. I SWEAR ON MY MOTHER'S LIFE, PARKER...

THIS GUY, RIGHT HERE, WHO YOU SAID DIED YEARS AGO...?



...THIS IS THE GUY WHO DIED IN AN ALLEYWAY A FEW WEEKS AGO.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAIL

Welcome aboard, web-heads. This is your new editor *Simperin' Steve Wacker* comin' atcha from high atop *Spidey Sentral*, smack-dab in the heart of New York City, New York. Home to Peter Parker, The Daily Bugle and various odors resembling natural gas.

Let me give a big wet kiss of thanks to my predecessor, Madcap Michael O'Connor, for leaving the place nice and orderly and helping out with all sorts of questions. Take a bow, Michael.

All right, so there are big, Big, BIG plans afoot for Spidey and company over the next 9-12 months. It all starts right here, as we begin **BACK IN BLACK** within all the Spider-titles this month (for more on what's driving Peter, check out both *Amazing and Sensational*) and will continue with the current Sandman epic here in *Friendly* (as well as our upcoming *Annual SANDMAN YEAR ONE*), the new Spider-clone saga in *Sensational*, and, of course, *Spider-Man 3* opening in May.

That's just the beginning, though. This may wind up being one of the biggest years for Spidey ever, so give yourself a Magnificently Man-Made Marvel Medal for being here on the ground floor. Now go grab your pals and bring 'em along. They'll only thank you for it in the years to come.

OKAY! Enough panderin'! We'll get more news to you in the coming months. Let's get to your comments:

Dear PAD (and FNSM team),

I just read FNSM #15, and WOW! What a breath of fresh air! Peter, your writing is top notch, and you continue to produce entertaining stories, regardless of what Spidey's status quo throws at you. Thanks for all the Easter eggs, brother, and for using classic villains. One question though, is there any chance of The Lizard showing up??

Chad "Gator" Gurney
Portland, ME

Sorry, Chad. No plans for the Lizard here in Friendly.

Dear FNS Mail,

I am thoroughly enjoying Scot Eaton's artwork in the Deb Whitman/Vulture arc "Taking Wing", but I'm confused about one thing. When Peter is in his Ben Reilly disguise and is talking to MJ on the phone, he looks at a reflection of himself, but it is a reflection of Peter Parker. It was a cool image, but was it just for the readers or would other people on the street looking at his reflection see him without his disguise as well? Just thought I'd ask.

I am excited about Betty Brant's return as I was always a big fan of hers when I first read *Amazing Spider-Man* in my old "Essentials" volumes. As for the further developments with Ms. Arrow: first the stingers, then the reference to the cocoon,

and finally the eating of a spider. If she's not The Other, there aren't many other characters she could be! So tell me, when will the big reveal be? Before or after Uncle Ben 2 returns?

Once again, thanks for the best current Spidey title.

Daniel Fidler
Newton, Massachusetts

Great questions, Daniel. Peter still looked like Ben Reilly to the man on the street. That was what we in the biz call "symbolism" or as the kids say, "Symbolizzle" (and by kids, I mean 35-year-old men trying to sound hip).

This issue should begin to give you some answers on Uncle Ben and Ms. Arrow. Keep readin'.

Dear FNSM,

It all makes sense now! David and Eaton are mutants! All I knew about *Friendly* #15's cameo guest star was gleaned from online forums when Joe Quesada appeared on his show. I did not know his catchphrases or what he looked like. Still, his name was the first to enter my mind after his appearance. A creative team that can impart that sort of understanding is more than talented - they're genetic improbabilities. Where are the new Sentinels when you need 'em?

Friendly impresses me more with each issue, and that's saying a lot when one of #15's villains was the *Vulture*. I mean, the guy's name is *Adrian* - what a joke! While Toomes remains pretty low on my list of favourite Spider-baddies, *Friendly* #15 did manage to make me feel a little more sympathetic towards him, even if I still don't quite grasp why he chose to be the *Vulture*. Sure, he's a bald bird-like dude, and that doesn't leave too many options, but he could have at least *tried* "Bald Eagle"!

As intriguing as the Ms. Arrow mystery is, I was far more interested in Betty Brant's appearance. Of all the bit players in Spider-Man's life, her reaction to Spidey's unmasking was the one I was most hoping to see, and I am glad that she reacted in a way that is entirely consistent with her past behavior. I sincerely hope that Peter feels he can confide in her, especially if it means we get to see her more often.

I still can't find anything to dislike about this title, and 2007 looks to be an even more eventful year for Spidey than 2006. So until Mary-Jane leaves Spidey to hang out with the Slingers, **FABRICATE FRIENDLY FREQUENTLY!**

Adrian J. Watts
Melbourne, Australia

Lots of points here, so I'll just dig in.

- 1) For the record, Eaton is not a mutant.
- 2) I'm aware of no cameo in FNSM 15. You're on notice, Watts!
- 3) There's no "u" in "favorite". Sheesh!
- 4) If you like Betty Brant, you'll love Spidey over the next couple years.

Dear Crew-

I was fascinated with a certain symbiotic super-villain when I was young. Venom was my favorite character. I used to sometimes feel sad about beating him up in games or watching him lose on the Spider-Man 90s TV show. I enjoyed every moment of Venom acting like a psychopath.

Well, finally addressing this month's issue, I really liked the whole mini-reunion with Flash, Betty, Deb, and Peter. I wish more folks could have made it, like Eddie Brock (and his hopefully reformed and reunited other identity), Robbie, J.J.J., and Felicia, but it's still very cool. Also, the Miss Arrow mystery seemed to be somewhat solved. We know she has spikes, is predatory like Morlun, eats spiders, and has a hidden and dark past she wishes to forget.

Until next month I repeat that goofy overused phrase that I don't understand, "Make Marvel Mine"?

Matthew Moore
Augusta Georgia

Matthew, you're definitely on Marvel's wavelength when it comes to Venom. Look for him every month in the new THUNDERBOLTS relaunch. I've also seen some documents on Warren Simons' desk, so I'll let you know if anything gets finalized.

As to your question about MAKING MINE MARVEL, it refers to the particular reader's ability to make mine (or "yours") the things of which are mostly Marvel's, but may be mainly shared with the larger masses of men and women while maintaining its inherent Marvel-osity ... or, as noted Marvelologist and founder of Marvel U(niversity) Stanley Lee refers to it: M-rating.

That clear it up? Test on Friday.

And with that comes the end of my first Marvel letter column (and believe me, just being able to type that makes this one of the high points of my career), but be back here in 30 days as we dive deeper into the secret of Uncle Ben and his murder and bring you the Marvel Team-Up you never expected--Spider-Man and Sandman!

Viva Templar!
Simperin' Steve

NEXT-ISSUE:



**SWALLOWED
BY
SAND!**

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